



BC Association of Social Workers
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For immediate release

BC SOCIAL WORKERS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON CHILD WELFARE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Vancouver) BC's professional association for social workers shares concerns expressed by the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) regarding the government's lack of response to recommendations made for improving BC's child welfare system.

The RCY released 'Advocating for Change: Five Years in Review' today highlighting the BC government's lack of progress implementing recommendations made to improve provincial child welfare services.

"The Office of the Representative for Children and Youth consults with youth with lived experience in the child welfare system, as well as experts in the field of child and youth care to produce critical and constructive reports," said Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers (BCASW). "Recommendations, aimed at improving services to children and youth are well-thought through and much needed, and should be prioritized for implementation by government."

Since 2008, 216 recommendations were made by the RCY. Of the 63 recommendations made between 2017 and 2021, only 14 per cent were considered complete and no progress was made on 40 per cent of them. None of the 14 calls for engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations are complete.

"The report politely notes that government is struggling to implement change based on the recommendations," said Crawford. "With only 14 per cent of the recommendations completed by government ministries, they deserve a failing grade and it may be more appropriate to question government's willingness, ability, or capacity for change."

The BC Association of Social Workers supports the calls for government to meaningfully engage young people with lived experience, their families, service providers and sector leaders – along with First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous peoples. Additionally, the BCASW

encourages the RCY to work with government ministries to further identify barriers and obstacles to change and remove them to more fully implement recommendations for change.

Advocating for Change: Five Years in Review

<https://rcybc.ca/reports-and-publications/advocating-for-change/>

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BC Association of Social Workers

BCASW is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Through CASW we support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. BCASW was incorporated in 1956 and has branches and members (including students) throughout BC.

BCASW acknowledges that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We also express appreciation to Métis and Inuit peoples across British Columbia.